In the Specification:

Please add a new section directly before "Technical Field" as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/999,032, entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR RETAINING A TRAY STACK HAVING A PLURALITY OF TRAYS FOR CARRYING MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES," filed November 1, 2001; which is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/420,659, entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR RETAINING A TRAY STACK HAVING A PLURALITY OF TRAYS FOR CARRYING MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES," filed October 19, 1999; and is related to U.S. Application No. 09/999,335, entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR RETAINING A TRAY STACK HAVING A PLURALITY OF TRAYS FOR CARRYING MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES," filed November 1, 2001; and is related to U.S. Application No. 10/035,375, entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR RETAINING A TRAY STACK HAVING A PLURALITY OF TRAYS FOR CARRYING MICROELECTRONIC DEVICES," filed November 1, 2001; all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6 beginning on line 17 with the following:

Figure 1 is an isometric view and Figure 2 is an exploded isometric view of a tray retainer 20 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. The tray retainer 20 can retain a tray stack 22 having a plurality of individual trays 24 that carry packaged or unpacked IC devices 26. The individual trays ~~22~~24 can be JEDEC trays that have a plurality of slots 27 or pockets to receive the IC devices 26. For example, in cases in which the IC device 26 has a plurality of pins 28, the slots or pockets 27 can receive the pins 28.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8 at line 24 with the following:

The guide structure 50 can be covered by a plurality of panels 62 (identified by reference numbers 62a-62d). In this particular embodiment, first and second side panels 62a and 62b are attached to sides of the retaining assembly 52, and first and second end panels 62c and 62d are attached to opposing ends of the retaining assembly 52. The panels 62 can be attached to the retaining assembly 52 and to each other by a plurality of bolts 69 or other suitable fasteners. The retaining assembly 52 and the panels 62 define a housing for containing the tray stack. The panels ~~26~~62 can be a single formed sheet housing, casting or molding. Additionally, the guide structure 50 and the panels 62 can be formed from a single casting or molding.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13 at line 23 with the following:

In light of the foregoing embodiments of tray retainers, particular embodiments of the lock bearing 140 and the sleeve 124 will now be described. Figure 4 is an isometric view and Figure 5 is a cross-sectional isometric view of one embodiment of the lock bearing 140 and the sleeve 124. The sleeve 124 can have an axial bore 125, outer sections 127 (identified by reference numbers 127a and 127b), and flat sections 129. Referring to Figure 5, the sleeve 124 is received in an axial hole 142 of the lock bearing 140, and the through-pin 122 is received in the bore 125 of the sleeve 124. The lock bearing 140 also includes grooves 144, resilient engagement elements 146 received in the grooves 144, and an annular shoulder 148. Each lock bearing 140 can be attached to a plate or other structure (e.g., the cross-member ~~1~~70) by a plurality of screws (not shown) that engage the annular shoulder 148. In operation, the sleeve 124 rotates with respect to the lock bearing 140 so that the outer sections 127 contact opposing sides of the engagement elements 146 for holding the cross-member 70, or so that the flat sections 129 face the engagement elements 146 to space the sleeve 124 apart from the engagement elements 146 for sliding the lock bearings 140 along the sleeve 124. The lock bearing 140 can be formed integrally with the cross-member 70.

Please replace the paragraph on page 15 beginning on line 1 with the following:

Figures 8A-8C illustrate another embodiment of a sleeve 224 and a lock bearing 240. In this embodiment, the sleeve 224 has an axial bore 225, a flat section 229, and a plurality of truncated ~~angular~~annular teeth 227 spaced apart from one another along the length of the sleeve 224. The lock bearing 240 has an axial hole 242 through which the sleeve 224 is received, a flat portion 243, and a slot 244 in the flat portion 243. As shown by Figure 8B, the flat section 229 of the shaft 224 faces the flat portion 243 of the lock bearing 240 in an unlocked position to allow the lock bearing 240 to slide along the shaft 224. Figure 8C illustrates the shaft 224 and the lock bearing 240 after the shaft 224 has been rotated by 90°. As shown in Figure 8C, at least one of the truncated annular teeth 227 is received in the slot 244 to prevent the lock bearing 240 from moving axially along the shaft 224.